(c) Prior to rendering its determination, the Commission may request that the parties submit whatever additional information or documentation they deem necessary, or it may direct that an investigation or hearing on the matter be conducted. If the Commission determines that the Board is not in compliance and the noncompliance is not attributable to acts or conduct of the complainant, it may order that the complaint be reinstated for further processing from the point processing ceased. Allegations that subsequent acts of discrimination violate a settlement agreement shall be processed as separate complaints under §§ 268.205 or 268.305 of this part, as appropriate, rather than under this section.

§ 268.505 Civil action: Title VII, Age Discrimination in Employment Act and Rehabilitation Act.

A complainant who has filed an individual complaint, an agent of the class who has filed a class complaint or a claimant who has filed a claim for individual relief pursuant to a class complaint may file a civil action in an appropriate United States District Court alleging violations of Title VII, the ADEA or the Rehabilitation Act:

- (a) Within 90 days of receipt of the Board's final decision on an individual or class complaint, whether or not a request for review has been filed with the Commission;
- (b) After 180 days from the date of filing an individual or class complaint if a request for review by the Commission has not been filed and a final decision of the Board has not been issued;
- (c) Within 90 days of receipt of an EEOC decision; or
- (d) After 180 days from the date of filing a request for review with the Commission if an EEOC decision has not been issued by the Commission.

§268.506 Civil action: Equal Pay Act.

A complainant may file a civil action under section 16(b) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (29 U.S.C. 216(b)) in a court of competent jurisdiction within two years or, if the violation is willful, three years of the date of the alleged violation of the Equal Pay Act regardless of whether he or she pursued any administrative complaint processing.

Recovery of back wages under the Equal Pay Act is limited to two years prior to the date of filing suit, or to three years if the violation is deemed willful. Liquidated damages in an equal amount may also be awarded. The filing of a complaint or request for review with the Commission under this part shall not toll the time for filing a civil action.

 $[59\ FR\ 16098,\ Apr.\ 6,\ 1996,\ as\ amended\ at\ 61\ FR\ 13079,\ Mar.\ 26,\ 1996]$

§ 268.507 Effect of filing a civil action.

Filing a civil action under §§268.505 or 268.506 of this part shall terminate the Commission's processing of any request for review. If a private suit is filed subsequent to the filing of a request for review, the parties shall notify the Commission of such filing in writing.

Subpart F—Matters of General Applicability

§268.601 EEO group statistics.

(a) The Board shall collect and maintain accurate employment information on the race, national origin, sex and disabilities of its employees.

(b) Data on race, national origin and sex shall be collected by voluntary selfidentification. If an employee does not voluntarily provide the requested information, the Board shall advise the employee of the importance of the data and of the Board's obligation to report it. If the employee still refuses to provide the information, the Board shall make a visual identification and inform the employee of the data it will be reporting. If the Board believes that information provided by an employee is inaccurate, the Board shall advise the employee that the purpose for which the data is being collected is solely statistical, of the need for accuracy, of the Board's recognition of the sensitivity of the information, and of the existence of procedures to prevent its unauthorized disclosure. If, thereafter, the employee declines to change the apparently inaccurate self identification, the Board shall accept it.

(c) Subject to applicable law, the information collected under paragraph (b) of this section shall be disclosed